

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 W
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R 031455Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 189
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PORT SAID
AD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 6469
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG IS JO
SUBJECT: GOE CONTINUES SETTING STAGE FOR GENEVA

REF: CAIRO 17834

1. CAIRO MEDIA HAD BUSY WEEKEND CONTINUING "PEACE OFFENSIVE".
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MAIN ITEM WAS SADAT INTERVIEW WITH WASHINGTON POST'S LIPPMAN.
IN VIEW WIDESPREAD ATTENTION SADAT OPINION ON LINK BETWEEN PAL-
ESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN RECEIVED IN FOREIGN MEDIA, WE REPRO-
DUCE BELOW VERBATIM TEXT OF ANSWER AS SUPPLIED BY LIPPMAN:
2. QUOTE. Q--HAVE YOU GONE SO FAR, IN YOUR TALKS WITH
MR. ARAFAT OR WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, AS TO THINK ABOUT WHAT
KIND OF PALESTINIAN STATE THERE SHOULD BE, HOW ITS LEADERS

WOULD BE SELECTED, WHAT ITS INTERNAL COMPOSITION SHOULD BE,
WHAT KIND OF MILITARY RELATIONSHIP YOU WOULD HAVE WITH THEM?

A--NOT YET. NOT YET. BUT MAYBE YOU REMEMBER IN '74 WHEN I
MET KING HUSSEIN IN ALEXANDRIA AND WE ISSUED A DECLARATION
AND I WAS ATTACKED VEHEMENTLY BY THE PALESTINIANS AT THAT
TIME. MY IDEA WAS AND STILL IS THAT A CERTAIN RELATION
BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN SHOULD BE DECLARED, TO
TAKE PLACE WHENEVER THE PALESTINIAN STATE IS CREATED OR COMES
TO BE. AND I HAVE THE SAME IDEA AT THIS POINT. THEY CAN HAVE
OUR EXAMPLE OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLICS THAT WE HAVE STARTED
WITH SYRIA AND LIBYA--EVERYONE HAS HIS PERSONALITY AND
EVERYTHING.THEY CAN HAVE THE MODEL OF A CONFEDERATION FOR
EXAMPLE. WHATEVER MODEL THEY AGREE UPON. BETWEEN THEM BOTH.

Q--THE PALESTINIANS OR JORDAN?

A--AND JORDAN. WHATEVER. I THINK THIS LINK SHOULD BE AGREED
UPON AND DECLARED. THIS WAS MY THEORY IN '74.

Q--AND IT STILL IS?

A--IT IS VALID. UNQUOTE.

3. PARANTHETICALLY, LIPPMAN TOLD EMBOFF JAN 2 THAT EGYPTIAN
PRESS REPORT OF SADAT'S REMARKS TOTALLY REVERSED SEQUENCE OF
HIS OWN REPORT. LIPPMAN ALSO SAID SADAT'S ONLY HEATED
COMMENTS CAME WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT QADHAFI.

4. PRESS ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW, WHICH APPEARED JAN. 2, FEATURED
SADAT'S COMMENTS ON SAUDIS, PARTICULARLY HIS DENIAL THAT
THERE IS ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIM AND SAUDI
ARABIA FOR OIL EMBARGO IN EVENT PEACE EFFORTS FAIL. SADAT
ASSERTED THAT SAUDIS HAVE FULL FREEDOM OF ACTION VIS-A-VIS
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ME DEVELOPMENTS; 1973 EMBARGO, FOR EXAMPLE,CAME AS SURPRISE
TO HIM. AS REPORTED, OTHER POINTS ADDRESSED BY SADAT WERE
HIS DENIAL THAT HE TRYING TO HURRY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER ON
ME, OPTIMISM ON HIS FUTURE DEALINGS WITH CARTER, REFUSAL
TO POSIT WAR AS ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO FAILURE OF PRESENT PEACE
EFFORTS, AND WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW ISRAEL ANY GUARANTEE DESIRED,
INCLUDING DEFENSE TREATY WITH US. PEACE "COULD BE ACHIEVED
IN A MONTH" IF US WANTED. INTERNAL SITUATION FOLLOWED,
SADAT STATING THAT COMPLETE POLITICAL STABILITY OF EGYPT
PROVEN BY GOE ABILITY TO LAUNCH POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM
AND ALLOW FREEDOM OF PRESS. REMARKS ON RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN CAME BRIEFLY AT
TAIL END OF REPORT.

5. BY JAN 3, THERE WAS INTERESTING CONTRAST IN PLAY OF SADAT
INTERVIEW BETWEEN REACTION FROM ABROAD ON PALESTINIAN STATE
AND JORDAN AND ANGLE PLAYED UP IN PRESS FOR LOCAL CONSUMP-
TION. AHRAH CLAIMS THAT PLO, FOR INSTANCE, STUDYING COOPER-
ATION BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO. JORDANIAN MINISTER OF

INFORMATION REPORTEDLY WELCOMED SADAT'S REMARKS AND KHALID AL-HASSAN (FATAH) DID THE SAME, GOING ON TO ENVISION JOINT SYRIAN, EGYPTIAN, JORDANIAN, PLO POLITICAL COMMAND. EDITORIALS, HOWEVER, IGNORED THIS POINT. AKHBAR COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON SADAT'S DECLARATION THAT EGYPT PREPARING ITSELF MILITARILY, NOTING "INHERENT DANGERS IN IMPETUOUS ISRAELI THINKING WHICH WILL GAMBLE AWAY CHANCES FOR PEACE." ARABS HAVE PROVEN THAT THEY ARE "CAPABLE OF SHATTERING MYTH OF ISRAELI MILITARY SUPERIORITY" AND AT SAME TIME HAVE SHOWN THEY ARE SERIOUS IN DESIRE FOR PEACE. ARABS HAVE DISPELLED "OLD FALLACIES OF ISRAELI PROPAGANDA LABELING ARABS AS INTRANSIGENTS DETERMINED TO THROW ISRAEL INTO SEA."

6. GUMHURIYYA ALSO STUCK TO SAFE THEMES, DESCRIBING ISRAEL'S "SHOCKING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND MORAL CRISIS" AS RESULT OF ITS 1973 "DEFEAT", AND DIRECTED ATTENTION TO TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS IN SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH LIPPMAN: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"NO CEDING OF AS MUCH AS AN INCH OF ARAB LAND OCCUPIED AFTER 1967" AND IDEA THAT PEACE DEPENDS ON INTENSITY OF US DESIRE TO ACHIEVE IT.

7. MEANWHILE, NEVER FAR FROM CENTER STAGE, FONMIN FAHMY GAVE INTERVIEW TO LEBANESE WEEKLY AL-USBU' AL-ARABI. BEGINNING WITH HIS "CONVICTION" THAT NEW US ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS POLICY TOWARD ME, FAHMY WENT ON TO REAFFIRM NECESSITY OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA AND TO WARN ISRAEL AGAINST PROCRASTINATION. FAHMY SAID EGYPT WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER POLITICAL FORMULA PALESTINIANS AGREED UPON FOR ESTABLISHING PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT (JAN 3 PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL WOULD MEET IN CAIRO IN FEBRUARY TO DISCUSS FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE).

8. VISUALIZATION: EGYPTIAN PUBLIC INSISTENCE THAT US IN PROCESS OF PROVIDING GOE WITH ME "VISUALIZATION" WAS REITERATED IN JAN 3 COLUMN BY AHAM EDITOR HAMDI FUAD, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE LEARNED FROM "MOST RELIABLE SOURCES" THAT CAIRO HAS RECEIVED IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON ON US VIEWS. ACCORDING TO SUCH INFORMATION, FUAD REPORTED, FORD GOVERNMENT HAS URGED CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO PRESS ISRAEL TO TAKE CLEARER STAND; CARTER IS PLEASED WITH EGYPT'S CALL FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE, WISHES TO MEET WITH EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, AND ISRAELI PRESIDENTS, AND IS EXPECTED TO LAUNCH DRIVE TO INFORM HIMSELF FULLY BEFORE GENEVA AND BEFORE ISRAELI ELECTIONS. US BELIEVES THAT SPEEDING UP OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS WILL RENDER GOE MORE CAPABLE OF NEGOTIATIONS; CARTER AND VANCE WILL BEGIN CONTACTS WITH PARTIES INVOLVED FOLLOWING WALDHEIM VISIT TO ME; US WILL HOLD CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS OF ME QUESTION,

"PRIOR TO CARTER-BRESHNEV MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER."
WEEKLY ROSE AL-YUSSEF HAD IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT CARTER
AND SADAT WILL MEET IN BONN IN EARLY SPRING.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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